



Ka Hā A Ke Akua

The Breath of God

***Nowemapa - Kēkēmapa
2022***

Autumn Leaves – God Doesn't

If you live in a tropical climate like we enjoy in Maui the season of autumn can be easily missed. I frequently joke with my friends back on the Continent, “Autumn is the time of year when we change from tank tops to t-shirts.” All kidding aside, as one who grew up in Pennsylvania, I do miss the color and beauty this season offers as trees put on a show that can bring about a sense of awe in even the casual observer.

In a recent Zoom gathering of Keawala'i members and friends one of the participants offered the words of my title for this article, Autumn leaves ... God doesn't. I found that pithy saying intriguing and its pun the source of a deeper truth. See if you don't agree.

While it is always dangerous to make such statements, it does feel like we are finally emerging from many of the restrictions the Covid pandemic placed on us. The latest boosters promise even greater protection as face masks are being left on our nightstands and automobile dashboards and we begin to engage in life once again with greater ease. It feels like most of us are beginning to shed former worries as our confidence increases each day.

That said, we are all aware that our lives have forever changed. Churches are not as full. Testing is done routinely when we know we have been exposed to Covid or we feel related symptoms. We are more cautious in large crowds and on various forms of public transportation. In a sense our guard is up as our carefree way of life has “left.”

There is another Autumn-related phrase I have seen frequently on the Internet that states, “The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go.” Autumn seems chocked full of wisdom – and this is so important. We all have things of which we need to let go. Some involve our fears. Others may include various forms of anger. Or perhaps it is our jealousy, envy, or some insatiable desire. Just as the tree when at its peak of beauty must let go of its leaves, so we may need to shed some things to begin anew – to grow.

The good news is that God is present throughout. While Autumn leaves – God Doesn't! Throughout this incredibly stressful season of history, I have been reminded repeatedly of the God who “will not let me go,” the God who never leaves. Whether I see it in the beauty of a sunset, the power and awe of a breaching whale, the peace of floating turtle, or the kindness of a friend or member of our Keawala'i 'ohana, God keeps showing up and reminding me of omnipresence. “I will not leave you,” as Jesus reminds us (John 14:18).

As we move further into this season of obvious transition, I invite you to listen carefully. From what is God nudging you to let go? What are you clinging to that is no longer helpful? As you try to let go, do you sense more clearly the Divine Presence in ways previously missed? Like the trees, we need to experience how lovely it is let some things go in order to grow. May God guide you during this season of change and may you see God's presence in new and enduring ways.

*Maluhia,
Kahu Scott*



Keawala'i Work day

On Saturday October 1, many hard-working Keawala'i members, including *Kahu* Scott, came out (starting at 8:00 A.M.!) to spruce up the *Hale Pule*. All of the bulbs were replaced in the ceiling lights and the globes were emptied of insect skeletons and washed. You might notice the uniformity of the lighting now. All of the fan blades and motors were washed. The pews were wiped down and those closest to the walls were moved and vacuumed behind. Every window was washed. But they didn't stop there! The concrete floor of the Pavilion was power washed as was the sidewalk near the columbarium. In addition, you might notice the nice shiny new doorknob on the front door. While it was a day of hard work, it was also a day of fellowship and appreciation of each other's efforts. Kudos to the lean mean cleaning team!

Mahalo, Tom Nelson, Chair, Board of Trustees



Evelyn Brown May her memory be eternal!



We celebrated the life of Evelyn Ann Brown on October 8 with many friends, members of the church, the Maui Canoe Club, and the Maui Classical Concert series group in attendance. While many tears were shed, it was a time to give thanks for Evelyn's life and the many ways she contributed to Keawala'i as a Deacon, Trustee, and member of the Pastoral Search Committee, among other ways. Evelyn is survived by her husband, Phil, her brother, and some nieces and nephews, as well as the many friends who miss her warm smile, jovial spirit, and deep kindness. Indeed, heaven has received one of our saints who will be sorely missed as we lovingly let go. May God's comfort surround us all.

Outreach Announcement A Cup of Cold Water Campaign

The Keawala'i Outreach Committee invites members and friends to participate in an upcoming campaign to collect items to donate to a local chapter of the non-profit organization, "A Cup of Cold Water" (ACCW). They support the unhoused people throughout the Maui County community by distributing a wide variety of essential goods and services.



Our campaign will run between **November 13 and December 4**. We ask you to bring Toiletries and First Aid items (see list below) that are essential to those in need. When you are out shopping, think of these items, grab a few extras, and bring them with you to church. A collection box will be available in our church office (open weekdays but please call ahead in case we are closed for lunch) and also in the sanctuary on Sundays. We also welcome cash or electronic donations that can be used to purchase these items on your behalf. Please designate that you would like your funds to be used for ACCW. Mahalo for your Aloha. List of essential needs include the following:

- Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, disposable razors, deodorant, shampoo, insect repellent, nail clippers.
- First Aid: bandaids, gauze and tape (for larger wounds), topical antiseptic (e.g., Neosporin).

Event Calendar at a Glance

November 2022

Sun. Nov. 6
Guest Preacher Jack Belsom - 10 a.m.
Board of Trustees - 11:15 a.m.

Wed. Nov. 9
Outreach Committee - 3:30 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 13
Homecoming - *Ho'ohui Keawala'i*

Tues. Nov. 15
Book Club - 10 a.m.

Sat. Nov 19
Ellen Whitcomb memorial - 2 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 20
Board of Deacons - 11:15 a.m.

Thurs. Nov. 24
Thanksgiving - office closed

December 2022

Sun. Dec. 4
Board of Trustees - 11:15 a.m.

Sat. Dec. 10
Blessing of the Animals - 10 a.m.

Sun. Dec. 11
Board of Deacons - 11:15 a.m.

Wed. Dec. 14
Outreach Committee - 3:30 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 17
Kupono Music Studios - 12:30 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 23
Christmas Eve Service set up 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 5 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
Set up 10 a.m.
Service 6:30 p.m.



ho'ohui
Keawala'i

Save the Date
November 13, 2022

You are invited to join the Keawala'i
'ohana for a grand homecoming
celebration. Throughout the

pandemic many of us did an excellent job separating ourselves from one another to remain healthy. That was very important to contain the virus as best we could. But we sacrificed many of the gifts that are evident when we gather in community. It's time to "come home."



Ho'ohui Keawala'i means homecoming or reunion and it's what we have planned for November 13, 2022. We will receive new members on that day and host a special reception following worship. We look forward to seeing you there to give and receive smiles and hugs. Ho'ohui Keawala'i. You don't want to miss it!

Ben Verdery Guitar Class



The 2022 Ben Verdery Maui Guitar Master Class marked the 21st year I have been conducting guitar master classes on the magical island of Maui. For 19 of those years, guitarists – national, international and local – have performed in the sacred church of Keawala'i as part of the class.

For the past few years, we have been fortunate enough to hold the class itself in the church, as well as perform there. From the time we first approached the much beloved *Kahu* Alike, he made it clear that the church was not a venue but a place of worship and of learning.

Before each of our concerts he would sing beautifully and offer a story and a

prayer. It was something we were all so moved by and will never forget.

I know I speak for the numerous students and guest teachers when I say that we feel blessed to be able to learn and perform in this spiritually charged place. We are eternally grateful to *Kahu* and all of the parishioners and staff who have made us feel like family throughout this time. All of us bow and say a huge *Mahalo!!*

- Ben Verdery (video link: <https://youtu.be/D-bDMJNaTy4>)



Dedication

Sterling Sofia Grace Hokuloa Kalea

On September 25 we dedicated the life of Sterling Sophia Grace Hokuloa Kalea (Great Star of Joy). This little one lit up the entire sanctuary as her "star of joy" shined brightly throughout the service. Mom and Dad, as well as grandparents and friends beamed with pride as we lifted this beautiful child to the Holy One in prayer and thanksgiving. May God bless us all - especially the little ones - as we seek to follow the light that is before us.



A Hui Ho Cathy Hobson

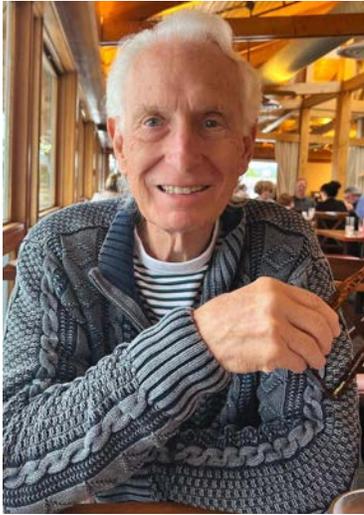
On Sunday, October 23, we bid *Aloha 'Oe* to longtime member, Cathy Hobson who will be joining her family on the Continent. Cathy served the church in so many ways including being a faithful tenor in our church choir. A regular in church attendance and the Wednesday Zoom Room, Cathy will be sorely missed. We offer her our prayers, blessings, and our gratitude.

A hui hou!



A Personal Pew Perspective

by *Kahu* Bob Nelson



In 2001, I decided to retire from Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Anchorage (AK) where I had served for over 20 years because my wife, Norma, suffered from SAD syndrome (Seasonal Affect Disorder) and after returning to Anchorage from our condo on Maui and falling on the ice landing in the hospital, Norma came to me and said "we don't have to do this you know." So we moved to Maui seven days after 9/11 on the first flight out of Alaska. Saint Mary's had been such a warm, welcoming congregation, even though it is very difficult for large congregations to reach out and welcome.

When we got settled here on Maui, we began to visit churches on Island. Our goal was to find such an open and welcoming congregation. Being Episcopalian we visited all the Episcopal churches and then we branched out to the Methodist, UCC, and Lutheran churches. Eventually we decided to come to Keawala'i one Sunday in November. As soon as we walked onto the church grounds, we were met by Auntie Eleanor and Danny Brown. Now no one at Keawala'i knew I was clergy for our first year here. Auntie Eleanor, who later referred to Norma as "Mrs. *Kahu*," came up to each of us and gave us a long hug and said "you are welcome here to our 'ohana."

Danny, in his inimitable way, said "welcome come on in, I'll play your favorite jazz and the people will stand up and shout and clap and say Amen and Alleluia." Then there was a pause, and with a twinkle in his eye, he said... "NOT." Auntie Eleanor walked us all the way in to show us our seats in the second row and she said "this 'ohana I want to be for you." I didn't, even at that point, know what 'ohana meant. I came to learn not only the meaning of 'ohana but to experience it deep within my heart. It wasn't just Auntie Eleanor and Danny Brown who welcomed us; after church we were surrounded by people welcoming us and inviting us to be a part of this 'ohana. Something we had not experienced before on Maui. Congregations must always remember: active welcoming. Welcoming that is reaching out and giving a hug. Jesus said "come, follow Me" to your seats in the second row.

Pā kāhea e kēia 'ohana pu'uwai hāmama a heahea,
(Welcome to this openhearted and welcoming 'ohana)
Kahu Bob Nelson (Kihei, HI)

Having lost their respective spouses a few years ago, Eve Quigley and Ron Cann met and found love once again. They celebrated a beautiful wedding with close friends in our *hale pule* on October 10. It was a beautiful service with many tears remembering both what was lost and what has been found. Congratulations and may you be blessed with many years of happiness, Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Eve Quigley Cann.



Give Aloha Raises \$4,290.37

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program raises funds statewide from customer donations alone. With Foodland and the Western Union Foundation's matching gifts non-profit organizations are supported financially across Hawai'i.

It has been another very challenging year for our community and world and customers gave generously. A big MAHALO for your donations as well as the matching donation from Foodland and Western Union -- \$4,290.37 was raised for Keawala'i Congregational Church's general fund. The Program honors Foodland's founder, Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan, and continues his legacy of giving back to the community.



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Ka Hā A Ke Akua: The Breath of God is a newsletter of Keawala‘i Congregational Church. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer(s). Unless otherwise noted, such opinions are not to be construed as the position taken by any of the boards, committees, or council of the church.

Regular Online Meetings

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service on Vimeo
<https://www.keawalai.org>

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

KCC Zoom Room

ADVENT SUNSET MEDITATIONS

Kahu Scott will host Sunset Meditations on each of the four Sundays in Advent: November 27, December 4, 11, and 18. The meditations will begin approximately 5:15 p.m. live on the Keawala'i Group Facebook Page. You do not have to be a Facebook subscriber to click and join us. You can also join us in person. We will focus on the four major themes for Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We will begin each evening with a brief spiritual practice, an explanation of the weekly theme, periods of silence, and conclude with the joy of watching the setting sun over the Pacific Ocean. Join us for these brief and peaceful opportunities to reflect on the preceding week and prepare for the coming of Jesus as we draw near to Christmas.



Ms. Edie Kapiko, Moderator
Mr. Bruce Burkitt, Vice-Moderator
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Mr. Thom. Probst, Treasurer
Ms. Andrea Yepez, Administrative Coordinator
Ms. Edie Kapiko, *Hui Mālama* Intake
Ms. Laura Moore, Sunday School Coordinator
Ms. Andrea Yepez, Outreach Committee Intake
Mr. Cameron Keys, Music Ministry Team
Ms. Danette Kong, Pianist
The Rev. Dr. Scott Landis, Transitional Pastor



Sermon: 10:00 a.m. Sunday sermon text is posted at www.keawalai.org under [Kahu's Mana'o](#)

Worship: Sunday services are in person and available on Vimeo at www.keawalai.org.

